The Member next prayed that the Kedevalavu river (Manimala) should be connected with the Podiyadi Peringara river which was deepened last year up to the Peringara landing. The new *thodu* to be further opened to join the Kedevalavu river would be only half a mile in length, and it would not cost more than Rs. 5,000, including land compensation and another sum of Rs. 2,000 for deepening the river from the Munnattumukappu to Peringara. The advantages of opening the new *thodu* were that the people would not have to suffer for want of good drinking water and that goods from the eastern tracts could easily reach the town of Tiruvalla. Goods could also be freely transported to and from Kayankulam and Mavelikara. The Tiruvalla town and market would also improve. The third representation of the Member was that the bridges on the road from Tiruvalla to Mavelikara should be improved. Though the Dewan, during his tour, inspected the locality and promised the construction of one bridge every year, it was understood that the amount provided for the construction of the Alanturutti bridge had been diverted for some other work. The Member prayed that the work of constructing the Alanturutti bridge should be taken in hand at once, and one bridge opened every year.

Lastly, the Member prayed that the roads of the town of Tiruvalla might be improved. He said that only a portion covering three out of the 8 miles of road in the town was fit for cart traffic, and that the municipality was too poor to undertake the construction of the remaining length. If the Government could grant them a sum of Rs. 2,000 for this purpose, the Municipality would be able to carry out the work with the co-operation of the people.

Dewan's reply.—You refer first to a canal for connecting the Manimala and the Pampa rivers. That matter is under investigation by the Engineering Department. We shall have to see whether the connection between the two rivers is likely to produce any harm to the lands through which the proposed canal will pass. An experiment is being conducted, and the results of that experiment have been encouraging so far. We must await further results of the experiment before embarking on that work.

In regard to the market canal, the Chief Engineer says that he is providing for the necessary width and arranging for the removal of bends. He has provided for these items of work in the estimate for the next section.

In regard to town roads and bridges, that is a matter which the Municipal Council must take up. They must go into the question and see what roads they want to improve and what such improvement would cost. They must present to Government an idea of their requirements, and what contribution they are prepared to make towards the cost thereof.

76. Certain urgent needs of the Ambalapuzha Taluk.

Mr. Chandi Thomas (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) represented the following needs of the taluk:—

(1) A canal from Alleppey to Changanachery should be opened and the work begun at once.

(2) The portion of the Ambalapuzha-Tiruvalla road between Tiruvalla and Edattuva at least should be promptly improved.

(3) An agricultural bank should be opened to improve *punja* cultivation and encourage *punja* cultivators.

(4) All the *thodus* that were silted up in the Kuttanad *punja* fields should be opened.

(5) A few temporary dispensaries should be opened in the interior parts of Kuttanad in times of epidemics. A small dispensary should also be established at the eastern end of the Alleppey town and placed in charge of one of the Assistants in the Alleppey Hospital.

(6) The promise of the Government in regard to remission of tax to owners of lands reclaimed from the Vembanad backwater in times of failure of crops should be given effect to at once. Besides granting the remission of the current year's tax

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and ground value to the cultivators of the C Block, second period, Vembanad backwater, who had suffered a loss of Rs. 2,00,000 by floods, Government should advance an adequate sum to them under the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation towards the next year's cultivation.

(7) Government should abolish the municipal tax on boats in view of the excessive burden under which the boatmen already laboured on account of the licensing of boats under the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation or at least exempt boats licensed under this Regulation from payment of municipal tax.

(8) Government should constitute an Agricultural Development Board consisting of officials and non-officials for the development of agriculture and for affording facilities to agriculturists.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to your representation regarding the Alleppey-Changanachery canal, I am afraid I shall have to give you a disappointing reply. I have gone from Alleppey to Changanachery by water, and the opening of the proposed canal, in my opinion, is not an urgent matter. It must wait. I quite realise the importance of the Alleppey and Changanachery towns. You have, however, a fine backwater communication connecting the two towns and the question of an alternative water route must necessarily give place to more urgent works.

You say that a road from Takazhi to Edattuva would be useful. I shall look into the matter.

You want a separate board for agriculture. I shall consider that matter also.

In regard to the C Block of the Vembanad lake, that is a matter on which I can say nothing now. I have asked the Land Revenue Commissioner to submit a report.

77. Some suggestions for the improvement of the irrigation canals in Vaikam.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai Krishna Pillai (Member, Vaikam Taluk) thanked the Government for the passing of the rules under the Agricultural Loans Regulation of 1094 and said that the following works were necessary to facilitate *virippu* and *mundakan* cultivation in his taluk.

The removal of the bund at the Valianapuzha river was first urged. The Member said that there was proper drainage of flood water followed by good harvest from these lands till 1062 M. E., when the above bund was constructed by Government without any one being consulted and water was made to flow through Tekke puthen *thodu*, Vaikam, and the Attaru *thodu* which were neither wide nor deep enough to drain away all the water with the result that much damage was done to crops by stagnant water. The loss under this head was estimated at one lakh of rupees. Notwithstanding the fact that repeated representations were made, there did not seem to be any prospect of removing the Valianapuzha bund. Yet some relief was needed. The Member said that the fields mostly lay on either side of the branches of the Muvattupuzha river and prayed that the *thodus* intervening the fields which were now in a neglected condition might be deepened, so that water during rains might flow down those *thodus* to the river and thence to the lake. He urged that two of the more important *thodus* which ran through the town might be attended to at once, both in the interests of sanitation as well as of agriculture, as already recommended by the Municipal Council. The Member next referred to the policy of the Government relating to *porambokes*. At the time of distribution of the *patta* after the Settlement 14 years ago, no registry-holder knew that there was *poramboke* in any portion of his property. The then survey officers had recorded some lands as *porambokes*; and now people had begun to realise the existence of *porambokes* when measured by Assistant Tahsildars. As soon as the Settlement was over, steps should have been taken either to register away such *porambokes* or to dispose of them by auction. The omission to do so was due to the fault of the Revenue Department. He, therefore, prayed that in cases in which the existence of *porambokes* in the possession of parties was proved, no fine, prohibitory assessment, or arrears of tax be insisted on, and that the *porambokes* be registered on recovery

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly